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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/085,894	02/28/2002	Jason C. Brooke	8266-0783	3459

7590 11/29/2002

Intellectual Property Group
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EXAMINER

BANNAPRADIST, LISA M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3676

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/085,894	BROOKE ET AL.	
	Examiner Lisa Bannapradist	Art Unit 3676	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 August 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 6-9 and 20-34 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 6-9, 20-31 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 31-34 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. **Claims 32-34** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ross, Jr., et al (US 2,663,048).

Ross discloses a caster assembly comprising a caster (40), support shaft (33), locking member (47), engagement member (all of 60, 61 and 35) and flange (66 and 35) as claimed by applicant. The locking member (47) moves between a first position (see Figs. 2 and 5) and a second position (see Fig. 1) and allows the support shaft (33) to pivotally move in a first direction. The engagement member (60, 61) prevents the support shaft from pivotally moving in a second direction. At least one flange (35) is coupled to the support shaft.

3. **Claims 32-34** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kendall (US 4,417,738).

Kendall discloses a caster assembly comprising a caster (34), support shaft (not numbered but connected above 34), locking member (38), engagement member (44) and flange (46) as claimed by applicant. The locking member (38) moves between a first position (see Fig. 2) and a second position (see Fig. 3) and allows the support shaft to pivotally move in a first

direction. The engagement member (44) prevents the support shaft from pivotally moving in a second direction. At least one flange (46) is coupled to the support shaft.

Allowable Subject Matter

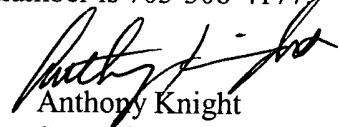
4. **Claims 6-9 and 20-31** are allowable over the prior art of record.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:
Neither Ross, Kendall nor the other prior art references of record disclose a caster assembly where locking bars are clear of and do not engage the support bars in the second position.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: US 184,342 to Cogger, US 4,054,096 to Wilson et al, US 4,783,879 to Weaver, US 5,924,168 to Webb et al, US 6,427,963 to Davis et al and GB 2,026,070 to Pharo.
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lisa Bannapradist whose telephone number is 703-305-4806. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs and every other Friday from 8:30 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 703-308-3179. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-4177.



Anthony Knight
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3600

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November 25, 2002